



## Success Story: Connecticut State Department of Education

### *Pregnant and Parenting Teens on Track for Graduation with the Help of Critical Supportive Services*

Pregnant and parenting teens are now on track for graduation from high school in some Connecticut schools because of the critical supportive services from the Support for Pregnant and Parenting Teens (SPPT) Initiative. This initiative is funded through a grant from the Office of Adolescent Health. Analyses of Connecticut data show high correlation between teen births and school dropout rates. In five Connecticut cities, the teen birth rate was at least two times greater than the overall state rate.

The SPPT Initiative helps school districts in those five cities, Bridgeport, Hartford, New Britain, New Haven and Waterbury, develop comprehensive programs that improve the health, education, and social outcomes for pregnant and parenting teens and their children. This model offers:

- Flexible, quality schooling to help young parents complete high school
- Case management and family support
- Linkages and referrals to prenatal, reproductive, and pediatric health services
- Quality child care and transportation services
- Parenting and life skills education and support services, including home visiting through a partnership with Nurturing Family Network programs
- Fatherhood involvement services and supports

All services take place on a scheduled basis during lunch, study halls, and before/after school. Dedicated space has been identified in a comprehensive high school in each city where teens can drop in during lunch, study hall or between classes for healthy snacks, to rest, or see the nurse or social worker with quick questions.

Monthly data reports track school and daycare attendance and participation. Year Two outcomes point to strengths of the program. These strengths include:

- Eighty percent of seniors enrolled in the program are graduating or remaining in school
- Ninety-eight percent of the students are receiving three or more of the comprehensive service components
- Ninety-eight percent of the children are up-to-date on their immunizations and well-child visits
- Ninety-nine percent of the children are meeting developmental milestones or receiving appropriate services to address developmental delays

In Year Two of the Initiative, 273 students were served (92 teen mothers, 142 pregnant teens, and 39 teen dads). The SPPT Initiative continues through August 2013. The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is working with sites to conduct sustainability assessments and develop sustainability plans.

Additionally, the Hispanic Health Council (HHC) has used the inventory of existing resources to expand their website to include a page specifically for pregnant and parenting teens: <http://www.hispanichealth.com/hhc/ctteenparent>.



## Success Story: Connecticut State Department of Education

### **Contact Information**

Shelby Pons

Project Director

Connecticut State Department of Education

(860) 807-2103

[shelby.pons@ct.gov](mailto:shelby.pons@ct.gov)

Susan Radway

Program Manager

Connecticut State Department of Education

(860) 807-2070

[susan.radway@ct.gov](mailto:susan.radway@ct.gov)